

(19)



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(11)

EP 0 901 284 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:
19.05.1999 Bulletin 1999/20

(51) Int. Cl.⁶: **H04N 7/08**, H04N 7/088

(43) Date of publication A2:
10.03.1999 Bulletin 1999/10

(21) Application number: **98116100.3**

(22) Date of filing: **26.08.1998**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE**
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

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(30) Priority: **05.09.1997 US 924236**

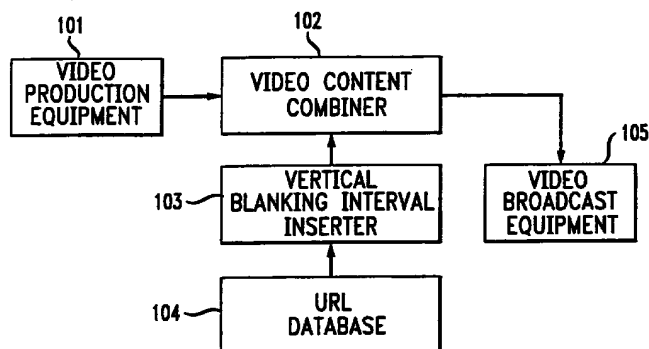
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(54) Internet linkage with broadcast TV

(57) Signals corresponding to Uniform Resource Locators (URL's) are inserted directly into a broadcast television signal, advantageously in portion of the vertical blanking interval available for closed captioning information. When a television signal with the embedded URL is received in an Internet capable television, the presence of the URL is indicated to the viewer, such as by causing a small, transparent, overlay icon to be displayed on the TV screen. When a viewer thereafter

actuates a special button on their wireless (infrared), or wired, remote control, the URL information contained in the television signal is extracted and sent to the portion of the television, or auxiliary device, used to establish an Internet connection. The viewer is then able to gain access to the Internet site having the address specified by the URL, which site will generally contain information associated with the television programming.

FIG. 1



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 98 11 6100

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Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 26 March 1999	Examiner Poirier, J-M
<div>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</div> <div> X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document </div>			

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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